

OPTIONAL EXERCISES

Drawing is not required for this class! You may not want to spend valuable workshop time honing your drawing skills. You can use one of several easy techniques to transfer an image without drawing. It's all good! If you want to improve your drawing skills, consider doing the exercises below, before the workshop :)

DRAWING EXERCISE

If you are not comfortable drawing, you are not alone. But it will serve you to work on your freehand drawing skills. Your work will become more expressive. It will also be more personal and creative. Just like anything else, the more you do it the more comfortable it becomes. Begin by making quick drawings that take just 15 minutes — but do it EVERY day and see what happens! Don't worry about perfection and do not judge. Keep it fun! This can be very freeing.

EMULATING EXERCISE

This is one of the most useful concepts I know. I learned it from Lynn Powers.

Choose artists whose work you would like to emulate and select three of their paintings. Consider what it is you love about these paintings and list three design elements you see in them that you would like to develop in your own work. Bring images of their work to the workshop, either printed or digital, to share your ideas. This will help clarify what direction you want your work to take.

STEAL LIKE AN ARTIST

Let's face it, we all draw inspiration from SOMEWHERE! If you are just practicing, it doesn't matter. You are welcome to copy any art of mine, or anyone else's for that matter!

But if you use other people's photos as reference and want to avoid copyright issues, these ideas can help you make it your own painting. It is actually easier if your reference isn't TOO perfect just the way it is, so you'll be more willing to modify it!

To use work for an art show or sale where originality is required, you will need to change it significantly — enough that someone would not recognize the source. Here are ideas on how you can do that.

1. Combine several images so your painting is different than any one of them
2. Add or eliminate elements in your painting
3. Crop yours differently
4. Flip the image horizontally before you print your reference
5. Change up the color palette
6. Use a unique technique or different style

You can borrow technique or style from anywhere — technique and style cannot be copyrighted! And there is much to gain by trying on other styles. While it's ultimately more satisfying to develop your own, that will happen naturally as you experiment.